

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 030535
ORIGIN ABF-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO USGAO HONOLULU

UNCLAS STATE 030535

USCG PASS USGAO FOR SHELEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, ENERG

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: "FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING NON-RENEWABLE MINERAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE RECOVERY OF MINERALS FROM INDUSTRIAL WASTES"

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY GAO OF THEIR INTENTION TO CONDUCT SUBJECT REVIEW. OBJECTIVES OF THIS REVIEW ARE TO: (A) ASSESS THE POTENTIAL FOR THE RECOVERY OF VALUABLE MINERALS FROM INDUSTRIAL WASTES; (B) EVALUATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO RECOVER SUCH MINERALS; AND (C) IDENTIFY PROBLEMS IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES.

2. DURING GAO PRELIMINARY WORK IN THIS AREA IT CAME TO GAO ATTENTION THAT JAPANESE FIRMS ARE POSSIBLY RECOVERING A VARIETY OF MINERALS DURING INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING THAT ARE BEING LOST IN THE UNITED STATES. IN SOME INSTANCES
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JAPANESE FIRMS ARE PURCHASING WASTES FROM U.S. PLANTS AND TRANSPORTING THEM TO JAPAN FOR RECOVERY. PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED USING MINERALS RECOVERED FROM THESE WASTES MAY WELL BE ULTIMATELY IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES.

3. GAO WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL OF

JAPAN'S INDUSTRIES INCLUDING SEVERAL LARGE STEEL PRODUCERS, TO DETERMINE WHAT RECOVERY EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE AND TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WHAT INCENTIVES AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW THEM TO INVEST IN INDUSTRIAL WASTE RECOVERY. EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED IN THIS REGARD.

4. DATES OF VISIT AND NAMES AND SECURITY CLEARANCES OF AUDITORS WILL BE PROVIDED BY DIRECTOR, GAO FAR EAST BRANCH, HONOLULU.

5. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO COOPERATE WITH GAO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES IN 4 FAM 930-934. GAO AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE OFFICIALS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR; TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY THE EMBASSY; AND AN EMBOFF TO ACCOMPANY, IF FEASIBLE. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 04 feb 1978
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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